

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00114 080709Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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UNCLAS KUWAIT 0114

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, KU
SUBJ: VISIT OF GOK OFFICIALS--MARZOUK AND BAHNASAWI

1. GOK MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIAL BARRAQ AL-MARZOUK PLANS VISIT U.S. FOR APPROX TWO WEEKS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. MARZOUK IS CHIEF OF MINFIN OFFICE WHICH RECENTLY SENT TWO EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND GSA COURSE IN CATALOGING AND MATERIALS HANDLING. MARZOUK WOULD LIKE TO STOP IN WASHINGTON FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS AND HAVE BRIEF MEETING WITH RUANE AND BRADY OF GSA. HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER COOPERATION BETWEEN HIS OFFICE AND GSA ON TRAINING.

2. MARZOUK DEPARTING KUWAIT APPROX JAN 13 OR 14 AND WILL GO DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON AS FIRST STOP IN U.S. EMBASSY WILL SEND ETA AND FLIGHT NUMBER IF IT AVAILABLE. MARZOOK ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND BY ENJINEER GOK MINISTRY PUBLIC WORKS, KAMAL BAHNASAWI.

3. FOLLOWING WASHINGTON VISIT, MARZOUK AND BAHNASAWI PLAN ONE WEEK VISIT TO HOUSTON, TEXAS TO INSPECT ASTRODOME. EARLIER THIS YEAR, EMBASSY REPORTED GOK INTEREST IN BUILDING DOMED STADIUM IN KUWAIT. KUWAITI INTEREST IN NEW SPORTS STADIUM HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY SEVERAL AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, DOMED STADIUM CONSIDERED EXTRAVAGANCE BY SOME AND WE UNDERSTAND GOK DELEGATION HAS ALREADY INSPECTED SEVERAL CONVENTIONAL STADIA IN EUROPE. THIS PORTION OF VISIT BEING ARRANGED THROUGH KUWAITI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND GOK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WE SUGGEST ANYONE INTERESRED IN DISCUSSING STADIUM WITH KUWAITIS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTACT THEM THROUGH KUWAITI EMBASSY OR THROUGH ASTRODOME

OFFICIALS.

4. IF KUWAITIS DECIDE ON DOMED STADIUM, U.S. FIRMS HAVE GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLY. LOCAL CARRRBC REP FOLLOWING THIS PROJECT CLOSELY SINCE HIS COMPANY INSTALLED AIR CONDITIONING FOR ASTRODOME. HE HAS ALERTED HIS U.S. OFFICE TO VISIT OF KUWAITIS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST STATE INFORM RUANE AND BRADY OF MARZOUK VISIT. NO OTHER ACTION NECESSARY SINCE ALL HOTEL AND FLIGHT RESERVATIONS AND HOUSTON PORTION OF TRIP APPARENTLY BEING HANDLEJ BY GOK.

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